

# Claims

We claim:

1. A display device consisting of:
  - a) a vertical or horizontal opaque surface or an opaque panel which is self-supporting and/or capable of being affixed to a horizontal or vertical surface,
  - b) a translucent panel of approximately the same or less area than said opaque surface or panel,
  - c) support means for affixing said translucent panel substantially parallel to said opaque surface or panel, directly in front of or above said opaque surface or panel and at a predetermined distance between 1 and 185 millimeters (.04 to 7.3 inches) from said opaque surface or panel.
2. The display device of claim 1 wherein said translucent panel is a type of frosted acrylic sheet or similar material which has the frosted look throughout the entire acrylic structure.
3. The display device of claim 2 wherein item support means are affixed to said translucent panel to hold items for display.
4. The display device of claim 3 wherein:
  - a) a light source is affixed to or positioned in front of or above said translucent panel on translucent panel side of said display device,
  - b) fastening and positioning means are included for said light source so display items held by said support means are illuminated by said light source.
5. The display device of claim 4 wherein said translucent panel is affixed to said background surface or panel by a plurality of stand-off mounts such that the distance between said background surface or panel and said translucent panel is between 12 millimeters and 85 millimeters (.5 and 3.4 inches).
6. The method of reducing the effect of shadows on items in display devices consisting of:
  - a) affixing an opaque background surface or panel perpendicular to a floor or wall surface or utilizing a floor or wall surface as the opaque background,
  - b) positioning a translucent panel of approximately the same or less area as said opaque background panel, substantially parallel to said opaque surface or panel, directly in front of or above said opaque surface or panel and at a predetermined distance between 1 and 185 millimeters (.04 to 7.3 inches) from said opaque surface or panel,
  - c) affixing support means to said translucent panel (on side opposite said opaque background surface or panel) to hold items for display,
  - d) providing a light source to illuminate said display items.